



Proponent Questions and CMHC Responses (Q&As)

RFx002627 – URN National Indigenous Housing Centre RFP

Date: February 12, 2024

Version 3

Q&A TABLE

No.	Proponent’s Question	CMHC Response
1	Is the \$2.5 billion a fixed minimum budget for the new centre or does the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities have the current authority to reduce the amount?	Yes, this is a fixed minimum.
2	What is the rationale and on what criteria was the decision made to allocate 12% of the budget for northern Indigenous housing?	<p>As per the RFP Section 4.2 Northern consideration – “given the unique needs of the north the Centre is expected to ensure that at least 12% of Program funding is made available to recipients for projects that support the north.”</p> <p>As per section 4.1 of Appendix C, the “Centre is expected to develop and finalize an organizational structure and governance model that provides for adequate representation across:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) All geographic regions of Canada b) All Indigenous identities c) Demographic populations – Indigenous Women, 2SLGBTQI+ people, unhoused/homeless, youth, students, elders, etc. d) Urban, rural, remote, and northern population centres”
3	Please confirm the target date for issuing the RFP and for awarding the contract.	On December 13, 2023, the Government of Canada announced its intention to launch an open and transparent Request for Proposal in early 2024, for Indigenous partners to be considered to lead the establishment of an Indigenous led National Indigenous Housing Centre.



		<p>On January 22, 2024, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) launched a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) process on behalf of the Government of Canada for Indigenous governments and organizations to submit a proposal to lead the establishment of an Indigenous-led National Indigenous Housing Centre.</p> <p>All Indigenous led groups including Indigenous governments, businesses and organizations, known as “Proponents,” in the RFP, must submit their proposals before the submission deadline, which is March 4, 2024, 2pm EST. Proposals received after this date and or time will not be accepted.</p> <p>An announcement of the successful proponent is anticipated by March 31st, 2024.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>How will CMHC ensure that the pan-Indigenous housing center will respect the First Nation control and jurisdiction over First Nation housing no matter where they live?</p>	<p>The RFP will determine the successful proponent for the Centre which will establish the governance, structure and delivery model for funds. As per sections 4.1 and 5.5 of Appendix C, the Centre is expected to provide for adequate representation, including by Indigenous identity, and outline objectives for partnership and stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>Please note there is nothing precluding Indigenous partnerships from submitting a proposal to establish a Centre that is either led by or includes First Nation representation.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Will CMHC engage in a bi-lateral, distinctions-based process with AFN to ensure the RFP for the pan-Indigenous housing center supports, and does not violate, First Nations jurisdiction?</p>	<p>On December 13, 2023, the Government of Canada announced its intention to launch an open and transparent Request for Proposal process, announcing the successful proponent by the end of March 2024.</p> <p>As per sections 4.1 and 5.5 of Appendix C, the Centre is expected to provide for adequate representation and outline objectives for partnership and stakeholder engagement.</p>



<p>6</p>	<p>Although the National Indigenous Housing Centre (NIHC) is part of the federal pan-Indigenous approach, some First Nations may want to partner with it and with urban Indigenous housing providers that will be dependent on funds from the NIHC. Some First Nations might want to partner directly with the NIHC. And individual urban First Nations citizens may apply directly to the NIHC and/or to urban Indigenous housing providers for housing assistance rather than applying to their First Nations. In other words, despite the distinctions-based First Nations URN housing strategy and funding stream, the AFN has an interest in ensuring the NIHC's terms of reference are 'First Nations-friendly'.</p> <p>Will CMHC include the AFN in the development of the terms of the NIHC?</p>	<p>As per sections 4.1 and 5.5 of Appendix C, the Centre is expected to provide for adequate representation and outline objectives for partnership and stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>This is reflected in the Rated evaluation criteria R2 - Organizational structure, governance, representation which seeks "Demonstrated representation within proposed governance structure" and R5 - Partnership and stakeholder engagement which seeks "Demonstrated existing or plan for establishment of a range of key relationships across sectors, regions, and identities.</p> <p>The vision, mandate, scope, and activities for the Centre will be determined by the winning proponent and not developed by CMHC.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>How will the pan-Indigenous housing center allocate and distribute the funds among different regions and communities while respecting the First Nations control and jurisdiction over housing for its members and citizens?</p>	<p>As per section 4.1 of Appendix C, the "Centre is expected to develop and finalize an organizational structure and governance model that provides for adequate representation across:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) All geographic regions of Canada b) All Indigenous identities c) Demographic populations – Indigenous Women, 2SLGBTQI+ people, unhoused/homeless, youth, students, elders, etc. d) Urban, rural, remote, and northern population centres" <p>Additionally, as per the Rated Criteria R4 of the RFP, Proponents are to provide (and be rated on) "Provision of robust allocation methodology and plan for funding delivery". CMHC understands that this key activity, as well as all other activities and deliverables must be Indigenous led and is thus seeking approaches from Indigenous proponents to address this.</p>



<p>8</p>	<p>ON page 17 of the RFP for the, it states that "proponents will be required to provide with their proposal a certification stating that they meet the definition ..."</p> <p>ISC does not issue any certificates any longer for PSIB and suggested that a status card would suffice. IS that acceptable for this proposal?</p>	<p>Proponents can submit a status card to provide proof of Aboriginal heritage of owners. If a Proponent is unable to demonstrate certification from any of the three certification sources listed in segment (1) under Proponent Eligibility, a Proponent can demonstrate Proponent Eligibility under segment (2) by demonstrating being listed on the Indigenous Business Directory at the time of Contract execution.</p> <p>Note, however; as per Section 1.5.2 of the RFP:</p> <p>"In addition to the general rights to verify and clarify Proponent submissions, CMHC can, at its discretion and at any time prior to execution of the Services Agreement, require Proponents to supply supporting documentation supporting their certification regarding legal capacity and status as an Indigenous Business, including, but not limited to, information about their legal structure, shareholdings and shareholders rights, corporate registrations, including for their corporate name and place of business, and evidence that the Proponents are in good standing. Failure to provide proof satisfactory to CMHC, in its sole, absolute and unfettered discretion by the deadline stated by CMHC in its information request may result in disqualification of the Proponent."</p>
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